

CONSUMER PROTECTION



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News

July 2001 Edition

Dear Wisconsin Children's Safety Advocates:

In June 2001, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission issued **nine (9) recalls relating to products affecting children and two (2) safety advisories**. Attached is a summary of the releases identifying the product, problem and what should be done with the recalled product.

We have found that not all of the recalls are picked up by the news media as they occur. This monthly summary will give you the opportunity to review all of the children's product safety recalls for the past month.

If you are interested in a complete text of the recall, double click on the hyperlink at the end of the recall description. This will take you to the CPSC website and the actual recall notice.

If you have other product safety questions you may call our toll free number at **(800) 422-7128** and then press **"zero" (0) to speak with Product Safety**. You should leave your name, your organization's name and a phone number.

Following is a listing of the 11 "KIDS" recalls & advisories by title and identification number:

- ❖ Hedstrom Corp is recalling Swings on Backyard Gym Sets. #01-165
- ❖ Equity Marketing Inc. is recalling Remote Controlled Toy Race Cars. #01-166
- ❖ Warning: Backyard Pools can be a Fatal Attraction to Toddlers – Drowning is a leading cause of Death to Children Under 5. #01-168
- ❖ Burger King is recalling Nets on Soft Playground for replacement. #01-169
- ❖ Brio is recalling Toy Baking Sets. #01-170
- ❖ Battat Inc. is recalling Beanbag Cushions. #01-171
- ❖ Century is recalling Multi-Use Strollers. #01-172
- ❖ Gymboree is recalling Baby Boy Bodysuits. #01-173
- ❖ KB Toys is recalling Activity Gym Toys. #01-174
- ❖ Inglesina USA Inc. is recalling Child Table Seats. #01-175
- ❖ Fireworks Safety Advisory. #01-179

We hope you find this service of value and that it assists you to:

"KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE!"

KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE

Release Number: 01-165 Hedstrom® Corp., of Bedford, Pa., and their subsidiary Backyard Products, of Collingwood, Ontario, are recalling to repair about 190,000 Star Cruiser® and Rocket Rider® swings on backyard gym sets. The recalled swings, which come with separate pieces for the seat and handle bars/leg rest, were sold with Hedstrom metal and wood gym sets, wood kits, and as accessories. The Star Cruiser has a one-piece seat, with a white plastic circle and the words, "Star Cruiser" and "Hedstrom" on the front of the handle bars/leg rest. A mesh backing, called a Safe-T™ Backrest, can be connected to back of the seat. The Rocket Rider is a 'see-saw' swing, with a white seat on which two children can sit back-to-back. The words, "Rocket Rider" are printed on the front of each of the two handle bars/leg rests. Department, toy, discount, lumber, and hardware stores nationwide, including Toys "R" Us, Wal-Mart and Kmart, sold the gyms from September 2000 through April 2001 for \$150 to \$400.

Problem: Screws that hold the swing together can fall out, causing the seat to fall to the ground, posing an injury risk to children.

What to do: Consumers should stop using the swings immediately and detach them from the gym set. Consumers should call Hedstrom toll-free at (800) 642- 9193 anytime to order a free repair. Consumers also can log on to the company's website at www.hedstrom.com or write to the company at Hedstrom Corp., Free Repair Kit, P.O. Box 432, Bedford, PA 15522.

- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01165.html>

Release Number: 01-166 Equity Marketing Inc., of Los Angeles, Calif., is voluntarily recalling about 4,300 Remote Controlled Race Cars. The remote controlled race cars are black with the number 28 printed in red on the doors and roof and the Texaco logo printed on the hood of the car. The cars are about 8-inches long by 3-inches wide and 2-inches high. A black cordless remote control is sold with the cars and reads in part "FORWARD," and "REVERSE" in yellow print. Participating Texaco gas stations nationwide sold

the cars under the "Need for Speed" promotion from May 2001 through June 1, 2001 for about \$12 with any \$10 purchase.

Problem: Problems with the circuits are rendering some of the Remote Controlled Race Cars inoperable. These cars can overheat and emit smoke and may pose a potential burn hazard.

What to do: Consumers should stop using these cars immediately, remove the batteries from the remote controlled race cars and the remote controls and return the remote controlled race cars and remote controls to the Texaco station where purchased for a full refund. Consumers also may return the items for a full refund by obtaining a prepaid shipping label by calling Equity Marketing Inc. at (888) 747-4355 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. PT Monday through Friday or by writing to Remote Controlled Car Recall, Equity Marketing, Inc. at 6330 San Vicente Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90048. For more information, consumers may also visit the firm's web site at www.equity-marketing.com.

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<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01166.html>

Release Number: 01-168 About 350 children under 5-years-old drown in pools each year nationwide, and over half of these incidents occur in June, July and August. Among unintentional injuries, drowning is the second leading cause of death to this age group after motor vehicle incidents. Another 2,600 children are treated in hospital emergency rooms each year for near-drowning incidents. Most of these cases involve residential pools. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) wants to reduce the number of children drowning this summer.

Many people assume that, at a residence with a pool, the danger of drowning occurs only when the family is outside or using the pool. But, a common scenario takes place when young children leave the house without a parent or caregiver realizing it. Children are drawn to water, not knowing the terrible danger pools can pose.

The key to preventing these tragedies is to have layers of protections. This includes placing barriers around your pool to prevent access, using pool alarms, closely supervising your child and being prepared in case of an emergency. CPSC offers these tips to prevent drowning:

- Fences and walls should be at least 4 feet high and installed completely around the pool.
- Fence gates should be self-closing and self-latching. The latch should be out of a small child's reach.
- If your house forms one side of the barrier to the pool, then doors leading from the house to the pool should be protected with alarms that produce a sound when a door is unexpectedly opened.
- A power safety cover – a motor-powered barrier that can be placed over the water area - can be used when the pool is not in use.
- Keep rescue equipment by the pool and be sure a phone is poolside with emergency numbers posted. Knowing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) can be a lifesaver.
- For above-ground pools, steps and ladders to the pool should be secured and locked, or removed when the pool is not in use.
- If a child is missing, always look in the pool first. Seconds count in preventing death or disability.
- Pool alarms can be used as an added precaution. Underwater pool alarms generally perform better and can be used in conjunction with pool covers. CPSC advises that consumers use remote alarm receivers so the alarm can be heard inside the house or in other places away from the pool area.

CPSC offers three free publications consumers can use to help prevent child drowning: "Safety Barrier Guidelines for Pools," "How to Plan for the Unexpected" and "Guidelines for Entrapment Hazards: Making Pools and Spas Safer." Copies of these publications can be obtained on CPSC's website, or by writing to "Pool Safety", CPSC, Washington, D.C., 20207.

• <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01168.html>

Release Number: 01-169 Burger King Corporation, of Miami, Fla., and its franchisees today announce a voluntary safety program to replace the nets on its enclosed indoor and outdoor play structures throughout the United

States with no-climb nets. BURGER KING® restaurants will install "no-climb" nets from the floor up to 7 feet to prevent children climbing into areas not meant for play.

The "no-climb" nets, which have holes that are about one-quarter inch, will be installed on the sides of the play structures that are accessible to children. "No-climb" nets will replace box-type nets, which have two-inch square holes. The smaller holes in the "no-climb" netting prevent children from climbing the nets. Of the approximately 3200 Burger King® playgrounds, only those playgrounds that do not have "no-climb" netting around the entrance and exit tubes, and do not have ceiling nets or other barriers to prevent access into non-play areas, will be temporarily closed until "no-climb" netting is installed. The Burger King® net-enclosed play structures keep children within the play area, and use nets, sliding and crawling tubes and other soft, flexible materials.

• <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01169.html>

Release Number: 01-170 BRIO® Corp., of Germantown, Wis., a subsidiary of BRIO AB of Sweden, is recalling 6,450 baking set toys. The yellow, blue and red hand mixers are 5.5 inches long, and are sold along with toy utensils, rolling pin, mixing bowl, and baking molds. The BRIO Small Baking Set and BRIO Baking Set are labeled for children ages 2 years and older and are packaged in a clear-plastic tote. Inside of the tote, a label reads, "PARENTS: ENSURE THE ITEMS ARE WASHED THOROUGHLY BEFORE USE." The recalled baking sets have a model number of either 31798 or 31795. Specialty stores, Internet retailers, and mail order catalogs sold the toys nationwide from March 1999 through April 2001 for \$15 to \$25.

Problem: The sets include a hand mixer with a knob that can break off, posing a choking hazard to young children.

What to do: Consumers should take the hand mixer away from children immediately and call BRIO toll-free at (888) 274-6869 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. CT Monday through Friday, for a refund or replacement item. Consumers also can send the mixer to BRIO Corp., SAFETY RECALL, N120 W18485 Freistadt Road, Germantown, WI 53022, for a refund or replacement. For more

information, consumers can log on to the company website at www.briotoy.com.

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<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtm01/01170.html>

Release Number: 01-171 Battat Incorporated, of Plattsburgh, N.Y., is recalling about 1,500 Parents™ magazine-brand Soft Landing Beanbag cushions. This product is an infant cushion manufactured by Battat for Parents™ magazine. The airplane-shaped cushions, measuring approximately 27 inches long by 21 inches wide, are covered in various solid-colored cloth panels, and are filled with plastic foam pellets. They have a "smiley face" on the front with a propeller that spins and makes clicking sounds, and a plush nose. The back of the cushion has a circular target design. Side pockets on the wings have a "My First Passport" book with circle teether and a heart-shaped rattle attached. The cushions' hang tag reads in part, "Parent's PLAY + LEARN ...Fun and safe for all ages...Battat Inc... Made in Thailand." Writing on the packaging states that the product can be used for infants 6 months and up to nap, and that the cushions are "not considered a safe sleeping area for babies." Target stores nationwide sold the cushions from September 2000 through May 2001 for about \$24.

Problem: Infant pillows and cushions have been banned under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act since 1992 because they pose a suffocation hazard to infants. In addition, two 8-to 9-inch cords, which attach toys to the cushions, pose strangulation hazards.

What to do: Consumers should take the cushions away from children immediately and return the cushions to a Target store for a refund. Consumers also can send their cushions to Battat Incorporated, Attention: Valinda Cayetano, Quality Assurance, 44 Martina Circle, Plattsburgh, NY 12901 for a refund plus mailing costs. For more information, consumers should call Battat Incorporated at (800) 247-6144 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit the Battat web site at www.battat-toys.com or the Target web site at www.target.com.

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<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtm01/01171.html>

Release Number: 01-172 Century Products Co., of Macedonia, Ohio, is voluntarily recalling about 650,000 "Take 2," "Travel Solutions," "Pioneer," "Travelite," and "Pro Sport" 4-in-1 strollers. The recalled strollers are for toddlers when used alone and for infants when a car seat/carrier is connected to the stroller. The model names for the recalled strollers can be found on the footrest, the seat pad, the legs of the frame or on a white label on the side locks.

Model Name	Years Made
Take 2	2000
Travel Solutions	1999-2000
Pioneer	1998-2000
Travelite	1997-1998
Pro Sport	1996-1999

Mass merchandise, juvenile products and discount department stores nationwide sold these strollers from approximately December 1996 through March 2001 for between \$100 and \$200.

Problem: The strollers can unexpectedly collapse or the car seat/carrier adapter can unexpectedly detach. When this happens, an infant or young child inside the stroller or an attached car seat/carrier can fall to the ground and suffer serious injuries.

What to do: Consumers should stop using these strollers and call Century toll-free at (800) 766-9998 anytime to order a free repair kit. Consumers should have their strollers available, as Century will help consumers determine if they have one of the recalled models. Consumers also can log on to the company's website at www.centuryproducts.com or write to Consumer Affairs, Century Products, Box 100, Elverson, PA 19520. Parents should continue to use these carriers as car seats. CPSC and Century remind caregivers to always restrain infants according to the instructions when in the car seat/carrier.

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<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtm01/01172.html>

Release Number: 01-173 The Gymboree Corp. (Gymboree®), of Burlingame, Calif., is voluntarily recalling about 5,500 Baby Boy Bodysuits. The recalled baby bodysuits are short-sleeved, one-piece outfits for toddlers sizes 0-3T. The bodysuits come in green and red, and have a wheel-shaped zipper pull. On the left arm of the outfit is a patch that says "1st Place Soap Box Derby." A white care label inside of the outfit reads, "Made in Thailand" and "2000 Gymboree."

The Gymboree website and stores nationwide sold these bodysuits from March 2001 through May 2001 for about \$17.

Problem: The wheel-shaped zipper pull can twist off and become a choking hazard to young children.

What to do: Consumers should stop using these outfits and return them to any Gymboree store for a full refund. For more information, call Gymboree toll-free at (800) 222-7758 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. PT Monday through Friday, or log on to the company's website at www.gymboree.com.

• <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtm01/01173.html>

Release Number: 01-174 KB Toys, of Pittsfield, Mass., is voluntarily recalling about 115,000 Electronic Light N' Learn activity gyms. The Electronic Light N' Learn activity gym is a multi-colored toy that converts into three different toys, including a crib toy, a floor gym and a musical keyboard. The gyms' main console has five buttons with numbers that make music when pressed and automatically light up when the continuous song play option is selected. Five detachable rattles in the shape of a bear, snail, star, half-moon and horse hang from the bottom of the console. A label under the handle on the gyms' main console reads in part "ELECTRONIC LIGHT N' LEARN ACTIVITY GYM MODEL: 8735, MADE IN CHINA." KB Toy store, KB Toy Works, KB Toy Outlet, Big Lots, Odd Lots, Pic N Save and MacFrugals nationwide sold the toys from September 2000 through January 2001 for between \$20 and \$30. The toys also were sold online at KBKids.com.

Problem: Five detachable hanging rattle toys have small round pegs at the top of the toys that can break off, posing a choking hazard to young children.

What to do: Consumers should take these toys away from young children immediately and return the toy to the store where purchased for a refund. Consumers who purchased the toy online, should return the toy to the closest KB Toy store or contact KB Toys for return information. For additional information, contact KB Toys at (800) 279-5066 between 8 a.m. and 1 a.m. ET Monday through Saturday and between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. ET Sunday.

• <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtm01/01174.html>

Release Number: 01-175 Inglesina USA Inc., of Montclair, N.J., is voluntarily recalling about 780 child table seats. The recalled table seat has a metal frame with a fabric cover, and connects to the edge of a table to allow a child to sit and eat at the table. The table seat does not have legs; instead, it is suspended in the air by clamps that connect to the underside of the table. The chairs come in blue and yellow and have the name "Inglesina" printed on the arms and the back of the seat. Department stores and toy stores sold the Table Chair from June 2000 through May 2001 for about \$50.

Problem: The seats were sold without a seat belt, posing a risk to children who climb out of the seat.

What to do: Consumers should immediately stop using the seats and call Inglesina USA toll-free at (877) 486-5112 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, to receive a replacement or a full refund.

• <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtm01/01175.html>

Release Number: 01-179 The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) held a press conference on the National Mall to demonstrate the dangers of sparklers and some illegal fireworks, including M-80s and salutes. Improper use of fireworks or use of illegal fireworks can result in deaths, blindings, amputations and severe burns.

An analysis prepared by CPSC staff reveals that last year, hospital emergency rooms treated about 11,000 people for fireworks-related injuries, somewhat higher than in 1999, when there were 8,500 injuries. The increase was largely a result of increased fireworks activities for the millennium celebrations, both at the fourth of July and in January.

Prior to the millennium, injuries had decreased significantly from the highs of 1992-94, when injuries averaged 12,500 a year. From 1994 through 1999, there was a decrease in fireworks injuries by one third, to 8,500 in 1999.

CPSC advises consumers to leave fireworks to the professionals. But if fireworks are

legal where you live and you decide to set them off on your own, be sure to follow these important safety tips:

- Never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Read and follow all warnings and instructions.
- Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks.
- Only light fireworks on a smooth, flat surface away from the house, dry leaves, and flammable materials.
- Never try to relight fireworks that have not fully functioned.
- Keep a bucket of water or a hose handy in case of a malfunction or fire.
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<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01179.html>